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Security Council

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Letter dated 25 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to the Security Council to vigorously denounce the latest repeated violations of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815, annex) by Kabila forces and their allies.

Despite the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the Kabila forces and their allies continue to attack Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) and Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) positions. A combined force of the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC), the former Rwandese Armed Forces (ex-FAR), Interahamwe, the forces for the Defence of Democracy in Burundi (FDD) and Mai-Mai supported by Zimbabwe and Namibia forces have intensified their military offensive along the Tanganyika sector in Katanga province.

These forces have already captured some RCD positions including Kontaula, Kasasaika, Musa, Balanga, Mutoto-Moja, Kyeruzi and Murungusha as well as Pepa town and airport. They have bombed Moba and Moba Port causing damage and civilian casualties.

Having occupied the above-mentioned RCD positions, the same forces have continued to advance up to RPA defensive positions and are now engaging the RPA using long-range artillery, tanks, bombers and boats. Under these circumstances, the Government of Rwanda wants to make it very clear that the RPA reserves the right to defend itself and its allies, and to react in such a way that the situation is put back into its proper perspective.

The Government of Rwanda requests the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to verify these gross violations without delay and the Joint Military Commission (JMC) know very well who occupies which positions. It is therefore those who want to alter the situation on the ground that should bear responsibility for the consequences.

MONUC should refer to the positions declared by each party to determine unequivocally who is violating the ceasefire. The silence should be broken and action taken by the Security Council to fully deploy MONUC. We condemn the Kinshasa Government and its allies for these irresponsible acts and the most serious violations of the ceasefire. The signatories of the Lusaka Peace Agreement, the

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United Nations and the Organization of African Unity must take note and act urgently to contain escalation of the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government of Rwanda wishes to reiterate once again its commitment to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement which we believe is the only viable framework that can bring about a lasting solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would appreciate it if the present letter could be translated into all languages used at the United Nations and circulated to all members as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative